

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/707,943
Response to Office Action dated August 27, 2007

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REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the thoroughness with which the Examiner has examined the patent application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Claims 1-18 remain pending of which claims 1, 7, and 14 are the only independent claims. Claims 1, 7 and 14 have been amended to require a pointer table memory that indicates a memory address "in said data table memory" at which each fixed length datum is stored, which finds support in at least ¶60 and Figure 3 of the specification as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-6 and 14-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,910,118 to Kagawa et al. ("Kagawa") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,424,650 to Yang et al. ("Yang") and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0174710 to Gooch et al. ("Gooch"). As currently claimed, claims 1 and 14 require "a pointer table memory for storing a memory pointer table having a memory address in said data table memory." (emphasis added) As noted in the Office Action, neither Kagawa nor Yang teach the claimed pointer table memory required by claims 1 and 14 as originally filed. Instead, the Office Action relies on Gooch for a teaching of the pointer table memory. Applicants respectfully contend that Gooch does not disclose the pointer table memory, as currently claimed.

The present invention requires two memories, namely a data table memory that stores the fixed length data and a pointer table memory that stores the memory address in the data table memory at which each fixed length data is stored. As presently claimed, the data table memory stores the data, and the pointer table memory stores the memory address in the data table memory at which the data is stored. Figure 3 depicts the claimed relationship between the data table memory 24 and pointer table memory 23. As shown in Figure 3, the data table memory 24 stores the data, i.e. MAC address, and the pointer table memory 23 stores the memory address in the data table memory at which the data is stored. Therefore, the pointer table memory 23 does not directly access the data, but instead indirectly accesses the data through memory address in the data table memory 24. The data table memory 24 stores the data. In so doing, when data is removed, the present invention does not require (1) alteration of the pointer table memory 23 or (2)

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rearrangement of data in the data table memory 24, which were complications required by the prior art. (Specification, ¶68, and ¶14 respectively).

Unlike the present invention which indirectly accesses the fixed length data through the hash value, Gooch directly accesses the IP addresses through the hashing pointer. As disclosed in Gooch, "each hashing pointer references a block of memory containing one or multiple IP entries (e.g. addresses)." (Gooch, ¶40). In Gooch the hashing pointer references a memory that contains the data. By contrast, in the present invention, the hash value indexes a memory that stores a memory address of another memory, namely the data table memory, and that other memory stores the data. In other words, the present invention indirectly accesses the data, while Gooch directly accesses the data.

Gooch does not teach a pointer table memory that stores a memory pointer table that indicates a memory address of a data table memory, as currently claimed. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Gooch does not teach the pointer table memory as currently claimed, and therefore does not compensate for the deficiencies of Kagawa and Yang. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 14 are patentable over the combination of Gooch, Kagawa and Yang, and claims 2-6 and 13-18 are likewise allowable by virtue of their dependence on allowable base claims 1 and 14 respectfully. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection applied against claims 1-6 and 14-18.

Claims 7-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gooch in view of Yang and further in view of Kagawa. Independent claim 7 has been amended to more clearly describe the pointer table memory. More specifically, claim 7 requires the pointer table memory to indicate a memory address in said data table memory at which each fixed length datum is stored. (emphasis added). Therefore, as described herein above, Gooch does not teach (1) that the claimed pointer table memory indicates the memory address of another memory, and (2) that that other memory, stores the data, which are both requirements of claim 7, as currently claimed. For these reasons, the combination of Gooch, Yang and Kagawa does not teach claim 7, as currently claimed. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 7 is patentable over the combination of Gooch, Yang and Kagawa and claims 8-13 are

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/707,943
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likewise allowable by virtue of their dependence on allowable base claim 7. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection applied against claims 7-13.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance of pending claims is respectfully requested. No fees are believed to be due in connection with this amendment. However, if there is any such fee due, please charge any such fee to deposit account No. 09-0458.

Respectfully Submitted,

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